

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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SECAF WASHDC
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6545
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09199

SECAF FOR DR. MARTIN; HQ USAF FOR LGF; ASD FOR YP. FROM
ODC-BELLUX.

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, BE
SUBJ: F-16 PROGRAM - QUESTIONS BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

1. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, THRU THEIR SENIOR REPRESENTA-
TIVE TO THE F-16 MNFP MG DALLEUR, RAISED THE FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS WITH THE CHIEF OF THE ODC TODAY.

A. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF THE F-16 PROGRAM. THIS CONCERN WAS BROUGHT
ABOUT BY ISSUES RAISED BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
AND BY RUMORS CIRCULATING THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS
WITHIN BELGIUM TODAY. THEIR CONCERN IS DIRECTED TOWARDS
THOSE DECISIONS THAT MIGHT BE MADE BY THE UNITED STATES
THAT WOULD CHANGE MARKEDLY THE FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF
THE F-16; E.G., THE TYPE OF ENGINE, THE AVIONICS PACKAGE,
THE ECM PACKAGE AND THE GENERAL SIZE AND CONFIGURATION
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OF THE FUSELAGE. THEY RAISED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) THE GAO RECOMMENDS THAT THE US AIR FORCE
INVESTIGATE THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE F-16 PRIOR TO
PROCEEDING WITH THE DECISION BEYOND 650 AIRCRAFT. THEIR
QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE FOLLOW-ON BUY OF THE
F-16?

(2) THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS, PARTICULARLY BASED

ON GAO REPORT ON THE F-16 ENGINE DIFFICULTIES AND PARTLY BASED ON ARTICLES IN THE MEDIA AND UNDOCUMENTED RUMORS, THAT THE USAF IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING REPLACING THE P&W F100 ENGINE WITH ANOTHER ENGINE. PRINCIPAL RUMORS INVOLVE THE B1 ENGINE. GOB WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT BASIS IN FACT, IF ANY, UNDERLIES THESE CURRENT RUMORS.

2. GENERAL DALLEUR EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOB IS VITALLY CONCERNED THAT THESE RUMORS OR FACTS AS THE CASE MAY BE, ARE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH THEIR EUROPEAN PARTNERS SO THAT THEY MAY DISCUSS THE ISSUES WITH KNOWLEDGE EITHER WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OR WITH THE MEDIA IF FORCED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN THAT ARENA. GENERAL DALLEUR POINTED OUT THAT BELGIUM'S DECISION TO BUY THE F-16 WAS MADE BASED ON ITS CURRENT CONFIGURATION AND THAT THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN A MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT, BOTH WITHIN THE NATO ARENA AND BILATERALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES. THEREFORE, ANY NEAR-TERM GROWTH IN THE AIRCRAFT TO ENHANCE ITS CAPABILITY WOULD CREATE MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE BELGIAN AIR FORCE AND FOR THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. GENERAL DALLEUR ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT HILL AFB DURING THE NEXT F-16 STEERING COMMITTEE AND THAT IF INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE SOONER, THAT IT BE PASSED VIA THIS OFFICE
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TO HIM.

4. GENERAL DALLEUR EMPHASIZED THAT THE DECISION BY THE BAF AND THE MOD TO PROCURE THE 12 OPTION AIRCRAFT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE AND THAT THEY ARE AWAITING FULL GOB APPROVAL PRIOR TO SIGNING FOR 12 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE, THESE ISSUES WERE RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF FUTURE PROBLEMS AND DO NOT INTERFERE WITH CURRENT ONGOING GOB DECISION FOR THE OPTION AIRCRAFT. GDS
31 DEC 84. DE TARR

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Message Attributes

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